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IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims are set forth below. Cancelled and withdrawn claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (previously presented), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously added), (reinstated - formerly claim #), (previously reinstated), (re-presented - formerly dependent claim #) or, (previously re-presented).

Please AMEND the claims in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A telephone directory information modifying apparatus for modifying telephone directory information held and managed at a data center, comprising:

~~a telephone number changing unit, responsive to a telephone number change notification instruction, for changing a telephone number of a number changer in telephone directory information of a registrant who has registered the telephone number of the number changer; and~~

a change confirming unit confirming in advance with respect to the registrant whether or not the telephone directory information is to be modified, prior to modification of the telephone directory information, and permitting the registrant to specify a time at which the telephone number change is to be performed by said telephone number changing unit.

~~a telephone number changing a telephone number of the number changer in telephone directory information of registrants who, among the extracted registrants, have registered the telephone number of the number changer.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A telephone directory information modifying apparatus for modifying telephone directory information held and managed at a data center, comprising:

~~a registrant information extracting means unit, responsive to a telephone number change notification instruction, for extracting information about registrants registered in telephone directory information of a number changer; and~~

a change confirming unit confirming in advance with respect to one of the registrants whether or not the telephone directory information needs to be modified, prior to modification of

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the telephone directory information, and permitting the one of the registrants to specify a time at which the telephone number change is to be performed,

~~telephone number changing means for changing a telephone number of the number changer in telephone directory information of registrants who, among the extracted registrants, have registered the telephone number of the number changer.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The telephone directory information modifying apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a change notifying unit means for sending a change notification to a registrant whose telephone directory information has been modified by said telephone number changing means.

4. (Currently Amended) The telephone directory information modifying apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a change confirming unit means for confirming in advance with respect to the number changer whether or not the telephone directory information needs to be modified, prior to modification of the telephone directory information.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The telephone directory information modifying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said telephone number change notification instruction is an instruction from the number changer.

8. (Original) The telephone directory information modifying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said telephone number change notification instruction is an instruction from a portable telephone service provider.

9. (Currently Amended) The telephone directory information modifying apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said further comprising a telephone number changing unit that means changes the telephone number in the telephone directory information of the number

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changer to a new telephone number in response to the telephone number change notification instruction from the portable telephone service provider.

10. (Currently Amended) The telephone directory information modifying apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a telephone number difference reflecting unit means for causing a telephone number difference in the telephone directory information of a registrant with respect to whom the telephone number of the number changer has been changed, to be reflected in a telephone directory of the registrant's portable telephone.

11. (Currently Amended) A telephone directory information modifying method for modifying telephone directory information held and managed at a data center, the method comprising:

changing, in response to a telephone number change notification instruction, a telephone number of a number changer in telephone directory information of a registrant who has registered the telephone number of the number changer; and

confirming in advance with respect to the registrant whether or not the telephone directory information needs to be modified, prior to modification of the telephone directory information, and permitting the registrant to specify a time at which the telephone number change is to be performed by said telephone number changing unit.

~~changing a telephone number of the number changer in telephone directory information of registrants who, among the extracted registrants, have registered the telephone number of the number changer.~~

12. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium recording a program for causing a computer to function as perform a process, the process comprising:

~~number changer telephone directory information retrieving means, responsive to a telephone number change notification instruction, for searching backup data which is a backup of telephone directory information of portable telephones, to acquire telephone directory information of a number changer,~~

~~registrant information extracting means for extracting registrant information that is about registrants registered in a telephone directory, from the acquired telephone directory information~~

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of the number changer acquired by the changer telephone directory information retrieving means,

~~registrant telephone directory information retrieving means for searching the extracted backup data based on the registrant information extracted by the registrant information extracting means, to acquire registrants' telephone directory information,~~

~~telephone number change recipient extracting means for searching the acquired registrants' telephone directory information acquired by the registrant telephone directory information retrieving means for information about the number changer and regarding such information about the number changer as information with respect to which a telephone number change should be performed.~~

~~change confirming means for prior to modification of the telephone directory, confirming, with respect to the number changer or a number-change recipient with respect to whom the telephone number change should be performed, whether or not the telephone directory information of the number-change recipient needs to be modified, and permitting the number changer or number-change recipient to specify a time at which the telephone number is to be changed.~~

~~telephone number changing means for changing a telephone number of the number changer in the backup data of the number-change recipient with respect to whom approval of the telephone number change has been confirmed by the change confirming means,~~

~~change notifying means for transmitting change notification mail to the number changer and/or the number-change recipient, and~~

~~telephone number difference reflecting means for causing a telephone number difference in the telephone directory information of the number-change recipient with respect to whom the telephone number of the number changer has been changed, to be reflected in a telephone directory of the number-change recipient's portable telephone.~~

13. (Currently Amended) A method of modifying telephone directories maintained at a central data center used by mobile telephony devices, where the central data center maintains telephone number directories for use by at least some respective mobile telephony devices, the method comprising:

receiving, at the data center, information indicating a change of a first telephone number

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from an old number to a new number;

responsive to the receiving, automatically identifying at least some telephone number directories of at least some of the other mobile telephony devices based on their being listed as entries in the telephone number directory corresponding to the first telephone number of which a change has been indicated;

before updating, allowing a registrant who owns a mobile telephony device corresponding to one of the identified directories to confirm in advance whether or not their directory is to be updated, and permitting the registrant to control a timing of such updating; and

automatically updating the identified telephone number directories to refer to the new telephone number rather than the old telephone number.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 14~~ claim 13, further comprising automatically notifying some of the mobile telephony devices of the respective update to updating of their telephone number directory.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 15~~ claim 14, wherein the notifying comprises at least one of sending a notice and sending an updated telephone directory, entry thereof, or information indicating a change to the telephone directory.